



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

*Handwritten:*  
4/19/54

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release Upon Receipt

*Handwritten:* 4/1  
APR 16 1954

PRICES RISE AT SEAL SKIN AUCTION

Prices for Government-owned fur seal skins at the semiannual auction held in St. Louis on April 12 showed an average of \$91.93 per skin, as compared with \$71.73 at last October's auction, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

The rise restores prices to the general level of last year's April auction and compensates for the October decline.

A total of 25,038 skins, products of the sealing industry administered by the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service at the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, brought \$2,301,646. This compares with 27,113 skins sold for \$1,944,920 at the October sale.

Matara-processed skins advanced 28.3 percent. A total of 13,629 of these brown skins was sold at an average of \$88.47 per skin. This compares with 16,017 sold in October at a \$64.03 average.

Safari-processed skins showed a rise of 33.8 percent. A total of 1,609 of these lighter brown skins brought an average price of \$62.36. At the October auction 2,900 of these skins sold for an average of \$45.23 each.

Black skins climbed 2.2 percent. A total of 9,800 brought an average of \$101.59 per skin, as compared with 8,196 averaging \$96.17 in October.

Because sizes and qualities of skins differ somewhat from one auction to another, the comparisons must be considered relative.

In addition to the fur seal skins, 39 Government-owned blue fox skins were sold for \$291.50 at an average of \$7.47 per skin.

x x x